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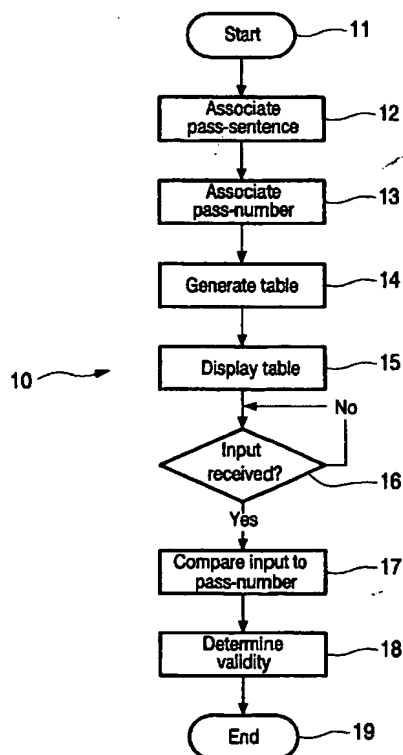
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(54) Title: USER AUTHENTICATION



(57) **Abstract:** In a method of verifying a user, a pass-sentence ($Z_1, Z_2 \dots Z_N$), comprising a string of word blocks which in sequence form a sentence known to the user, is associated with the user at step 12. At step 13, a pass number ($Y_1, Y_2 \dots Y_N$) comprising a string of numbers between 0 and 9 is associated with the user. At step 14, a table having $N+1$ columns and ten rows is generated. The first column is filled with digits 0 to 9 sequentially from top to bottom. The word blocks Z_1 to Z_8 are each included in the table thus: Z_p is placed in column $P+1$ and in row Y_p . The other cells in the table are then filled with suitable word blocks so that each column contains word blocks of the same type. A user knowing their pass-sentence and seeing the table then determines their passnumber by identifying the row number for which the first word block in their pass-sentence is found, and so on, and enters it at step 16. The input is compared at step 17 to the passnumber from step 13. If the numbers are the same, then step 18 determines that the user is valid.

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